

Harnett Tractor Company

*1500 South Clinton Avenue
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December 17, 2001

*Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530
Fax: 202-616-9937*

Dear Ms. Hesse:

Many of us don't realize how many people benefit from Microsoft's products, since so many people use them at home and at work. Therefore, when the government comes down hard on a company that is so important to everyone, it has a substantial effect on the economy.

In fact, announcement of the first judgment against Microsoft and the sudden decline in that stock traces almost exactly to the large declines in the NASDAQ as a whole, according to economists and brokers.

There has not been any consumer harm as a result of Microsoft's business practices. In fact, Microsoft's innovation has led to tremendous benefits for consumers, such as better products and lower prices. Antitrust law is supposed to be about consumer harm, and on that key issue, the government has failed to show any harm whatsoever.

The last thing the technology industry needs are government lawyers, bureaucrats and judges watching over the industry, attempting to micromanage it - which is exactly what Microsoft's rivals lobby for on a regular basis.

I realize that tech is "the new frontier" of American business, but that shouldn't give companies license to "muddy the waters" regarding Microsoft's impact of consumers on a perpetual basis. I hope that Judge Kollar Kottelly will approve the settlement, and that all tech firms can work on developing new products to make businesses operate more efficiently in the twenty-first century.

Thank you,

David R. Lewis
David R. Lewis, CEO